

## THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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Winston, N. C.

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## THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

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—The Asiatic cholera has made its appearance in South America.

—Ninety-nine new granges were organized in 1885 and ninety-one in 1886.

—But 100 out of 14,000 chimneys in Charleston escaped injury by the earthquakes.

—Mr. Cleveland in his message to Congress makes a vigorous plea for a reduction of tariff.

—The Prohibition vote in the several States at the last election was 356,596, against 146,074 in 1884.

—Within five years the product of the coal mines in Alabama has increased from 322,934 tons to 2,225,000.

—The trustees of Trinity College have elected Rev. S. B. Jones, D. D., of the South Carolina Conference, president of the College.

—It is stated that oil wells in Ohio which had been for years unproductive have been flowing freely since the earthquakes in the latter part of August.

—Gov. Lee, of Virginia, refused to commute the sentence of T. J. Cluversius, condemned to be hanged last Friday, but granted a respite until January 19th.

—The assay of gold ores for Mecklenburg county, in the assay office at Charlotte for 1885 amounted to \$16,000, in 1886 it was \$75,000 an increase of \$59,000.

—A correspondent of the Pittsburg Dispatch says that ex-vice-President Wm. A. Wheeler is a confirmed slave of the opium habit, from which he is now hovering on the brink of the grave.

—A bill passed the House of Representatives Saturday, without division, forfeiting the lapsed land grant to the Ontagon and Brute River railroad company, amounting to 384,600 acres.

—The Chatham Home, Durham Plant and other State papers publish the resolutions adopted by the Forsyth County Farmers' Club favoring a call for a Convention. The movement meets with favor. The Home advocates it strongly.

—Perry & Co., large stove founders of Albany, N. Y., have closed up there and will remove their business to South Pittsburg, a town on the Tennessee river just below Chattanooga, where they will erect works and employ from 500 to 1,500 men.

—Sunset Cox is filling his old place in Congress again, and the M C's welcomed him back. They were very lonesome while he was entertaining the Sultan and other folks in Turkey. Sunset is a little man, but he is about the sprightliest of the batch of 325.

—The subjects chosen for discussion by the Farmers' Club of Pitt county, last Saturday, were: "The practical benefit of a Farmers' Union." and "The best system to cultivate and house a crop with profit to the farmer." The farmers of Pitt are moving.

—Louis Bagger & Co., solicitors of patents, Washington, D. C., write us that 38 patents bearing date of December 7 were granted to citizens of Southern States, among them one to W. A. Fretwell, of Reidsville, N. C., on plow, and Thomas Thompsom, of Edenton, on fish trap.

—The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg county have decided to macadamize the main roads leading into Charlotte and will begin work at once. They use the county convicts in doing the work of grading, breaking, spreading rock, &c. The business men of Charlotte have begun to realize the importance and necessity of good roads.

—In the State of Ohio reformatory prisons are being erected for the confinement of offenders guilty only of trivial offences instead of sending them to the penitentiary to be confined with murderers, robbers and other hardened criminals. This is a move in the right direction. No State should allow slight offenders, especially the young, to be thrown in constant contact by association with those who have spent their life in crime, and whose companionship would destroy whatever of good there might be in the young offender.

## WHAT NORTH CAROLINA NEEDS.

The Newbern Journal is one of the strong advocates of industrial education in North Carolina, and forcibly remarks in the conclusion of a leading editorial on that subject: "The education that trains the hand as well as the head and heart, is the kind we need in North Carolina." There are but few reflecting men who will not at once acknowledge the truth of this, but whether they do or not it is true, nevertheless. This is a day of quick thought and action, when the man who thinks the quickest and the best and moves or works the most rapidly and with the best methods, wins. He leaves the slower and less expert competitor behind in the race. What is true of individuals is true of communities, for communities and states are simply aggregations of individuals. It counts but little if States have great resources of soil, forest, mine, quarry and water power, if the knowledge and skill is not found among her people to turn these resources to profit. North Carolina has soil that bounteously responds to the intelligent and industrious cultivator, forests unsurpassed by any equal scope of territory on the globe, mines of marvelous richness, and quarries of wonderful variety, with water-power more than enough to turn the wheels of the world. And yet with all this she lags in the rear for want of knowledge and skill, "trained heads and trained hands" to work and utilize. We need more knowledge and better methods on the farm, more skill in the shop and more shops, more skill to convert the timber which we can spare into wagons, carriages, plows and other farm implements, barrels, buckets &c., instead of selling it for a ridiculous price to speculators and aliens who coin money out of it; more wielders of the pick and gad, sledge and drill to bring out the hidden stores of our mines and quarries. All this we need; but this we will not have and cannot have until the brain and hand are trained together, the one to devise, the other to execute.

## THE TOBACCO CROP.

Bradstreet's trade review for November, speaking of the tobacco, says:

"The special tobacco crop report indicates that the Western leaf crop will aggregate about 235,000 hogsheads, against 250,000 hogsheads in 1885; that there has been a decline in the yield of about 30 per cent. in the bright Virginia and North Carolina leaf, and of about 16,000,000 pounds or nearly 16 per cent., in the seed leaf crop, mainly through the falling off in Wisconsin against the output of last year.

## JOTTINGS BY THE WAYSIDE.

—The acreage seeded to wheat is perhaps short of last season but the ground was in good condition and good stands were generally obtained. I confidently expect a good wheat crop. I have never known a failure when the old Dutch rule could be observed: "Put in your wheat when the dust rises from your horse's feet." And I believe the rule holds good in any crop. I have never seen a good crop of any kind that was planted when the ground was too wet. Many of our people wait for a "good season" to transplant potato slips, cabbage, &c., and many of them do this work when the ground is so wet that it will not support their weight. The plant is retarded in its growth and especially if exposed to dry hot weather and turns yellow. The ground should be in good condition for any crop. I look for a crop of wheat of excellent quality.

—All along the lines of the C. F. & Y. V. and the N. C. Railroads I see large piles of our finest hickory timber ready for shipment to the machine shops and factories of the North. I see flat cars loaded with magnificent walnut, cherry and poplar. An agent of a large manufacturing establishment told me last Spring that he was cutting an average of one thousand hickory trees per day. I see that a syndicate of Northern men have just arrived in our state and want to buy 250,000 acres of timbered lands. These timbers are sold at a low price, they are shipped north and furnish in their manufacture employment and bread to thousands of mechanics and their families, the manufacturer pays the freight, pays his employees, pays his rents, pays freight back to the depot from which they were originally shipped and sells them to the persons from whom he bought the timber at an enormous profit. Here we have idle men and women and children, idle water power and every advantage naturally over our neighbors and yet some of our papers are quoting with approval and pride, the sales referred to as an evidence of thrift and progress! Our fathers with their thousands of acres and scores of slaves, butchered their forests and gutted their soils and left us a legacy of worn out fields, and we are robbing our children in the same way and worse by sending off our most valuable timbers at a nominal price. And we have some men in our midst who call this development.

—One of the best men of the Cape Fear region said to me recently; "I have bought enough commercial fertilizers since the war, to have paid for the best plantation on the Cape Fear River." "Well, it ought to have made you rich," I said. "It has ruined me and it is ruining this country. If I had never bought a pound I would to-day have been a thousand times better off." A man said to me at Lexington, "One of my neighbors, a poor man, bought two bags of fertilizer to put under his tobacco—he sold the crop the other day and came out in debt six dollars and eighty cents." I saw Mr. Charlie Hinton, of Wake county sell a large lot of tobacco in Durham. It brought fine prices, some of it as high as \$72 per hundred. It was his second crop and was raised, cut and cured without the aid of an expert. He used commercial fertilizer, but he used it with intelligence and had fine tobacco lands.

—An able and influential lawyer in our State writes: "There is evidently a powerful and growing sentiment to appropriate the Land-Script fund—\$125,000—to Industrial education and this sentiment has been mainly built up by the PROGRESSIVE FARMER. You will have opposition—strong and powerful opposition from a certain quarter, but work and work on, and as you never worked before and your efforts will be crowned with glorious success. The great mind and heart of our people are with you. I fondly trust you may succeed in reviving North Carolina and kindle a lively interest in Industrial progress among her people."

Of course there will be opposition but it will not be able to withstand the reasonable demand of "the great mind and heart" of our people. We want a system of education for the great mass of our people, one that will teach our boys and girls how to make an honest living in the world and this Land Script fund was donated for that purpose and we pledged ourselves to the government

that it should be applied for that purpose and it has not been done. That certificate of indebtedness to the university now lying in our State treasury for \$125,000, and on which our people are paying \$7,500 interest annually to the University must be transferred and be applied to the establishment of Industrial education. The taxpayers of North Carolina have paid the interest to the University on their own money (which was taken from them in violation of law and in disregard of their rights) for eleven years amounting to \$86,250 up to the 1st of July last, and they feel that it is just and right that this money should be applied as was directed by Congress and as we agreed to do when we accepted it. For the sake of the University we should deeply regret to see any marked opposition to such a reasonable demand. If a contest should arise there can be no doubt as to the result, for the people of North Carolina intend to have that fund applied as it has been in other States and according to law.

—An intelligent farmer in Anson county writes that he has three bright, healthy children. He wants to educate them but he is not able to send them to our colleges. He wants to give them industrial, practical training, such as is taught in the agricultural colleges of Georgia and Mississippi. He desires us to give him all the information as to those schools &c., the price of tuition the course of study &c. Write to Gen. S. D. Lee, Starkville, Miss. He is president of the State Agricultural college at that place and is a learned and accommodating gentleman and I may add is doing more for industrial progress than any man in the South. He has 360 Mississippi boys in the College and they are made to study theory and principles in the school room and then are required to go out in the farm, the garden, the stock yard, the garden, the machine shops, the work shops, the kitchen, the designing room and apply these theories and principles. When one of these boys is fitted to leave school he is also fully qualified to go immediately to work, not as an apprentice who has to learn his trade but as one thoroughly prepared to take charge and go ahead.

If the farmers of our State want a similar institution they have only to take charge of the money that was donated to them by Congress for that purpose. The farmers of Mississippi had this to do. It is \$125,000 and our people pay annually the interest amounting to \$7,500. This now goes to the State University and has been doing so since the 1st of January 1875, amounting now to \$86,250, which they have paid. This money should be applied to industrial education.

I was standing in a cotton yard the other day and saw a farmer deliver two bales of cotton as a payment on his chattel mortgage. He was allowed eight and a half cents per pound for it. It took most probably four acres of land to produce it. It cost the farmer most probably twelve cents per pound. How long before the final crash will come? Our farmers say to the north: Produce our meat and bread, our hay, our fertilizers, every thing we need that can be transported, put your own price upon them and we will raise one crop to pay for it all and you may fix the price on that crop. How long before the final crash will come?

I saw another farmer who is running a large farm with tenants. He supplies each with land, stock, implements, seed and food for the stock. "I shall lose money on every tenant on my place." Why? Those tenants buy everything—give mortgages, pay long prices; he stands their security. He does this too when he gets only half their crops and knows too that his industrious neighbor, who owns his land and stock and gets all that he makes, is breaking under the same system. The negro tenant works when and as he pleases. He will neglect his crop at the most important season and go ten miles away to court and spend days to witness the trial of a neighbor negro for the stealing of a chicken—he will drop his hoe at any time to go on an excursion or to a show or to a political gathering, or to aid in getting up a grand reception in honor of a returned convict from the penitentiary and every Saturday at noon he must nurture his freedom by taking his gun and dog or his fishing tackle and fritter away the day. Is it any wonder that this man will

lose money this year on every tenant on his place? How long before the final crash will come?

## INTENSIVE FARMING.

The system of intensive farming followed by Dixon and Furman, in Georgia, is revolutionizing to some extent farming in that State. The farmers of that State had been in the habit of buying large quantities of commercial fertilizers, buying on credit as some of them, doubtless, still do, but Furman and Dixon, by their example and success, taught better, and the consequence is that a very small quantity of commercial fertilizers is now used in comparison with what was used formerly. Furman adopted a formula of his own, adapted to the requirements of the soil and crops he cultivated, and pursued what he called the intensive system of cultivation. He studied the character of the soil, its adaptability or lack of adaptability for certain crops, and acted accordingly. By analyses carefully made he learned the constituent elements of the soil, and the constituent elements of the crops he wished to plant. If the soil was deficient in any of the plant elements he fed the soil to remedy that deficiency, and thus he raised crops that stagger belief. Lands that were considered worthless for agricultural purposes he brought up to an astonishing state of fertility, and improved them year after year. His method was to reduce the acreage and increase the product, making one acre yield as much as two, three, or four acres under the old methods, and he pursued this system unwaveringly up to the time of his death, a couple years ago. He gave his formula, however, to his brother farmers, and those of them who have followed his example have profited by it. They cultivate fewer acres with better results, labor less, make more money, and do not harass themselves by going into debt as they did formerly. They buy only the necessary chemicals to compost with, at a small figure, run, so to speak, their own fertilizer establishments, and are in this respect independent, while the lands they cultivate are constantly improved, and grow better every year. They farm with system, with intelligence, and the result is less drudgery to them, more money in their pockets, more contentment and happiness on the farm. What reform in old methods has done for the farmers of Georgia, it will do for the farmers of North Carolina, who must abandon the excessive use of commercial fertilizers, the indiscriminate use of them, and depend more upon their own brains and home-made fertilizers. This is the true policy and the only one that will succeed.

## "I HAVEN'T THE TIME."

"I haven't the time to read. I have to work too hard." Let us see. How many days during the year 1885 did you go to town when you had no particular business there? How many "sales" have you attended? How many days have you spent hunting and fishing? How many days or hours have you neglected your business, to talk with some man who had "nothing particular to do"? How many days have you spent at political gatherings? What are you doing these long winter evenings? Where are you and what are you doing while it is raining, or while the ground is covered with snow? Are you sure you haven't time to read?

A man said when we asked him to join a farmers' club: "I have no time to attend the meetings." And yet we have known that man to stop his plough, when his crop was needing work badly, and go fifteen miles to a political meeting, and keep his poor horse hitched out in the scorching sunshine the whole day, without water or food. It would seem that such a man could or should find time to attend a meeting of a club, at least once a month.

—A colored woman living near the poor house has a two year old baby that weighs ninety-eight pounds and is continually growing fatter. Barnum's fat woman is nowhere.—We are glad to see that some of our citizens are turning their attention to fruit growing. N. R. Parker, who is a progressive farmer, has 1,000 pear trees, and John L. Sawyer has just set out some nice apple trees. That's right, diversify; there is money in farming.—Elizabeth City Falcon.